1	2	3	4	5	6	"7
	HMT (International Ltd.)(Subs. HMT)	36.53	19.44	53.22	25.47	-23.67
	TOTAL (C)	338.45	340.30	100.55	331.46	2.67
	TOTAL (A+B+C)	4939.97	3843.00	77.79	4362.37	-11.91

Report of Law Commission on judicial arrears

*100. SHRI SURENDRA UTH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission headed by Justice M. Jagannadha Rao has submitted its report on judicial arrears;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the backlog of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission has informed that the present (Sixteenth) Law Commission headed by Justice M. Jagannadha Rao has neither submitted any report on "Judicial arrears", nor any project, at present, is pending on the subject.

(c) Both the Government and the Judiciary are concerned with the quick disposal of pending cases. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speeding up the disposal of these cases. These include simplification of rules and procedures on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc.

Further, the Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides, increasing the judge-strength from time to time, the Government have set up/encouraged alternative modes of dispute-resolution, including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals, like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Labour Courts etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of cause list, providing

information to the litigants/advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Pilot project for the district courts has been started for computerization of city civil courts in the four major metro cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. All Central Ministries/ Departments have been requested to take necessary steps like review of Acts/laws, administered by them, filing of counter-affidavit in time and avoidance of unnecessary adjournment of cases.

Fast Track Courts have been set up for quick disposal of long pending cases, priority being accorded to sessions cases pending for 2 years or more and cases involving underthals in jails.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force *w.e.f.* 1.7.2002, which include limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, FAX or Email, authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments and provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal.

The Minister of Law & Justice has been addressing the High Courts periodically for filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts. Efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Nodal agency for export of garlic, onion and potato

455. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nodal agencies have been created in several States for the export of garlic, onion, potato, etc.;

(b) if so, the names of said States who have formed such agencies; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed tor the export of these commodities and whether any scheme has been formulated by